

Annual Report



**Westhampton
Massachusetts**

2006

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TOWN OFFICERS**



**TOWN
OF
WESTHAMPTON**

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2006

DEDICATION



WAYNE BUZZEE

This year's town report is dedicated to Wayne Buzzee for his many years of service as a member of the Westhampton Fire Department. Wayne first joined the fire department in 1979, and went on to be elected Vice President of the Westhampton Firemen's Association in 1980, and then President of the Association in 1983. He received his certificate for completing county training school in May of 1982. During the 1980's he served on many Fire Department Committees including the fire phone system advisory committee and the new fire truck committee. In May of 1986 Wayne was promoted to Deputy Chief, a position which he held for twenty years. Wayne was an especially valuable member of the fire department because of his availability to respond to calls and his mechanical skills. He always worked in town during his tenure on the fire department, first as a member of the

highway department from 1979 to 1986, and then from 1986 on, as he operated his auto repair shop. This helped provide critical coverage of the town during the workday while other fire department members worked out of town. The fire department also benefited greatly from Wayne's ability and willingness to maintain the trucks, saving the town much money on vehicle repair costs. During 2006, Wayne served as Fire Chief before retiring from the department in January 2007.

On behalf of the residents of Westhampton, we thank Wayne for his dedication to the town and wish him the best of luck in the future.

REPORT OF THE SELECTBOARD

The Selectboard would like to thank the Town of Westhampton's employees and volunteers who worked together diligently to serve the residents of our town and make meaningful improvements to the departments that service them.

As of January 1, 2006 the Selectboard consisted of James Huston as Chairman, Brian Mulvehill as Clerk, and Charles P. "Karl" Norris as the third member. James Huston was re-elected for a third term at the June election. The Selectboard would like to express our gratitude for the exemplary work of Margaret Parsons, our Administrative Assistant.

The Highway Department added two new pieces of heavy equipment to its fleet, a new dump truck and a new loader. This year our Highway Superintendent, David Blakesley has put great effort in overcoming the details and issues with the South Road project.

Police Chief David White asked the Selectboard to consider adding a Sergeant's position to his department. The position was posted and the Selectboard approved from the six applicants Floyd Fisher a current and experienced town officer.

The Fire Chief Search Committee which consisted of Chris Norris, Mike Diggins, Mike Derouin, Scott Tirrell, David Antosz, Bill Jablonski, Chris Brooks, and John Zimmerman put together a job description, salary level, training requirements and certifications for the Selectboard. Wayne Buzzee was appointed Fire Chief on May 1 2006 on the conditions he obtain a First Responder certificate by January 1, 2007 and no repairs or towing be done by his business Country Automotive.

The Selectboard after hearing from the Conservation Commission,

Planning Board, Open Space Committee and after consulting with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, decided to ask Town Meeting to amend the General Bylaw to form an Agricultural Commission to promote agriculture in Westhampton and to consider drafting a Right to Farm bylaw. After approval, the Selectboard appointed the members of the Agricultural Commission: Jack Moynihan Chairman, Maureen Dempsey, Tom Hathaway, Lisa Norris, Carolyn Fuller Coggins and Ed Parsons. A Right to Farm Bylaw was subsequently drafted and proposed at a Special Town Meeting and passed.

April 3rd, the Selectboard agreed with the Library Trustees to hire a consultant for a fund raising feasibility study. The Selectboard on October 16 received over 300 signatures requesting the Selectboard hold a Special Town Meeting to vote for a second time on a new library. The Selectboard honored the request and a Special Town Meeting was held on November 15th. The article did not receive the required votes and did not pass.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Huston, Chairman
Brian Mulvehill, Clerk
Charles P. Norris

REPORT OF THE HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The focus of the Hampshire Council of Governments continues to be to help local governments save money and solve problems through regional cooperation - as it was set out in the Council Charter - and a commitment to the concept of local control over local affairs. The combined dues for the Council of Governments in Fiscal Year 2006 were \$148,823. The dues

collected help support Council programs, services, and assistance to a variety of programs.

The Council's Electricity Program is a new venture that has seen tremendous growth and possibility in its first year. Over this Fiscal Year, seventeen towns in Hampshire and Franklin Counties contracted with the Council for electricity supply for their town facilities. On March 27, 2006, the Council began buying and selling electricity as a licensed competitive supplier. The towns which contracted with the Council opted for a profit sharing rate. The towns pay the utility prices and share in profits which the Council may earn by buying directly from the electricity spot market. Future goals include other rate plans and extending the Council's electricity services to businesses, and finally, residents through a municipal aggregation.

The Cooperative Purchasing program, now in its 26th year, coordinates and administers a formal bidding process on behalf of Council departments, municipalities, school districts, and human service agencies and miscellaneous governmental entities throughout the Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire County region. Buying in bulk generates added savings over lone bidding efforts while complying with state procurement statutes and eliminating duplication of administrative work. The total purchasing volume for goods and services for Fiscal Year 2006 was \$4.3 million with a projected savings of \$933,960.

In a year when many towns are facing double-digit rate increases in health insurance premiums, our towns once again held their costs to single-digit increases. The Hampshire Councilors serve as the trustees of the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust, a cooperative effort to provide health and life insurance with excellent benefits at competitive rates.

An Insurance Advisory Committee, made up of representatives of all participating units, meets regularly to discuss problems and possible solutions and to explore new ideas. The Trust manages a self-funded group of health insurance products. The collective premium for the Trust was \$29M. Through the efforts and expertise of the Trust management, the volume of participation in the program, and the participation of the town representatives on the Advisory Board, the Insurance Trust is successful at managing costs while providing excellent benefits.

The Regional Services Department develops regional approaches to problems shared by Hampshire County municipalities. The department secures surplus federal equipment for various Massachusetts municipalities and state entities. The current net savings of property delivered to member communities for Fiscal Year 2006, after fees and delivery charges, totaled \$25,466. Member communities receive a discount on the fees, as well as the right of first refusal on nicer pieces of equipment obtained through the surplus program. Regional Services continued its oversight of the Hampshire Inspection Program, which provides building inspection and zoning enforcement services. Emergency inspection services are also available for other towns not in the program for an hourly fee. Finally, the Department has been cooperating with the Electricity Department in performing account analysis and estimated electricity cost savings to help towns analyze their electricity purchase options, as well as salesmanship.

The elected Councilors provide public oversight for Hampshire Care in Leeds, a rehabilitation and skilled nursing facility owned and operated by the Council and County since 1914. The facility provides for 120 patients, with over 250 admissions per year from all the towns in the County. The majority of patients are admitted for rehabilitative care following an

accident or illness. Hampshire Care also provides post hospital treatment, and long-term nursing services. The facility has an exemplary record of performance on State and Federal surveys, and rates highest in the County on State Survey results. (See Massachusetts Department of Public Health "nursing Home Report Card.") As a government owned, non-profit facility, Hampshire Care has no owners or stockholders to report to and concentrates all of its resources on offering the best patient care possible. All revenues for the facility's operation come from patient services. Hampshire Care also has roughly the same profile of Medicare, Medicaid, and private patients as the average long-term care facility in Massachusetts. The Hampshire Council of Governments is very sensitive to its responsibilities as a government entity to provide services for the communities it serves. The Council would like to be able to expand the public services being offered on the campus of Hampshire Park, where Hampshire Care is located. Hampshire Care also provides a substantial number of good jobs, with 120 full-time equivalents and over 150 employees. These employees, as with the patients, almost all are residents of the surrounding towns and villages. The total financial impact on the local economy is about \$8 million dollars.

One of the less noted benefits to local communities is the impact that Hampshire Care has on the cost of retirement benefits. It has been calculated that retirement benefits for most communities would rise substantially if Hampshire Care were not part of the Hampshire County Retirement Board.

The Council maintains one of the few remaining grant-funded tobacco prevention efforts in the region through the Tobacco Free Network serving both Franklin and Hampshire Counties. Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the Department of Public Health. Since the passage of the state-wide smoke free work site law in July of 2005, efforts here and

across the state have been on preventing youth from using tobacco, helping smokers who are interested to quit, protecting people from second hand smoke, and working to end health disparities of tobacco. This means that particular populations carry a heavier burden caused by the hazards of tobacco. In our area these populations include people with lower income, in particular, rural poor, women, and racial minorities.

In addition to the various departments, programs, and services, each Councilor attends a monthly Full Board Meeting as well as a Standing Committee Meeting. Each Committee has oversight of specific departments and programs and continues to look for ways to increase revenue and provide services. The Council is currently working on proposals for development of the Hampshire Park area of Hampshire Care. Ideas discussed include the potential for the addition of a charter school, a housing program, and other developmental ideas to enhance the property and raise revenue.

As the Westhampton representative to the HCOG, I currently hold the position of Council Chair and serve on the Executive, Finance, Human Services, Regional Services, and Electric Committees. Feedback ideas and requests regarding the activities and services of the HCOG are always welcome. For further information on Council programs, expenses, and revenues, please contact the Councilors' office at (413) 584-1300 ext 2. You may also visit the Council website at www.hampshirecog.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla Stefansson

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

In 2006 the Board of Assessors issued 103 abatements and exemptions: 32 Real Estate and Personal Property, and 71 Motor Vehicle; recorded 61 property transfers; and approved the placing of 2 additional parcels under the protection of Chapters 61, 61A, and 61B.

Westhampton's assessed value for FY2006 is \$250,400,226: Real Estate - \$227,811,300; Personal Property - \$2,742,426; and Exempt - \$19,816,500. The tax rate was set in December of 2006 at \$12.82 per \$1000.00 of evaluation.

The Board wishes to thank Ann Braastad and Dolores Thornhill for their many years of service to the Town of Westhampton. Ann resigned in May after serving as Assessors' Secretary for 13 years. Ann also served as an Assessor for one year. Dolores' term ended in June and she chose not to run again after serving 8 years as an Assessor. We appreciate their dedication and service.

Mary Vachula joined the Board in May as Assessor's Secretary and Walter Morrey was elected to the Board in June. We welcome them both to the office.

The Board of Assessors meets every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Assessor's Office at the Town Hall. Please feel free to come up and visit or call us at that time.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Miller
Paul Nevins
Walter Morrey

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 2006 as follows:

BIRTHS 14 10 Male 4 Female

DEATHS

January 8, 2006	Myrtle Willard
January 9, 2006	Francis Bak
January 26, 2006	Euthecia Gunn
January 31, 2006	Viola Allen
June 6, 2006	Dorothy Ducharme
July 4, 2006	Priscilla Conner
July 27, 2006	Crystal Barbeau
October 11, 2006	Donald Sandusky
October 14, 2006	Ambrose Labrecque
October 30, 2006	Veronica Patenaude
November 25, 2006	Frank Atanowski

MARRIAGES 1

June 24, 2006 Realf Schermer to Koren Nicole Morrissey

DOG LICENSES FOR 2006:

8 Males	@ \$8.00	\$ 64.00
37 Neutered Males	@ 4.00	148.00
2 Females	@ 8.00	16.00
35 Spayed Females	@ 4.00	140.00
6 Kennels<4	@ 15.00	90.00
0 Kennels<10	@ 25.00	00.00
2 Kennels>10	@ 50.00	<u>100.00</u>
90 Total Fees Collected	\$	558.00

Town Fees from Dog Licenses	82 @ \$.75	\$61.50
Town Fees from Kennels	8 @ \$.75	\$ 6.00
TOTAL TOWN FEES		\$67.50

HUNTING/FISHING/LICENSES/STAMPS

6 Fishing Licenses	\$ 165.00
1 Fishing Licenses (Minor)	11.50
1 Fishing Licenses (65-69)	16.25
5 Fishing Licenses (>70)	0.00
1 Hunting License	27.50
6 Hunting/Sporting Licenses	270.00
3 Hunting/Sporting >70 yrs.	0.00
4 Archery Stamps	20.40
5 Primitive Firearms Stamp	25.50
0 Duck Stamp	<u>0.00</u>
32 Total Licenses/stamps sold	\$ 536.15
Town Fees Collected	\$ 8.40

TOWN CLERK FEES

8 Birth Certificates	\$ 40.00
4 Marriage Certificates	20.00
23 Death Certificates	115.00
1 Marriage Intentions	20.00
2 Burial Permits	40.00
4 Resident/Voter Lists	20.00
4 Business Certificates	<u>80.00</u>
Town Clerk Fees Collected	\$ 335.00
5 Zoning Bylaw Booklets	\$ 75.00
11 Variances/Special Permit Apps.	1375.00
1 Subdivision Filing	125.00
1 Parking Ticket	<u>15.00</u>
Total Fees Collected	\$ 1590.00
12 House Numbers Issued for 2006	

POPULATION (2005 CENSUS) 1718

TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS	1204
DEMOCRATS	197
REPUBLICANS	150
LIBERTARIANS	2
GREEN PARTY	5
OTHER POLITICAL DESIGNATIONS	1
UNENROLLED	849

In addition to the Annual Town Meeting held May 13, 2006 and the Annual Town Election held June 3, 2006, five Special Town Meetings were held during 2006 on February 6, April 3, June 26, October 30 and November 20, 2006. The Special Town Meetings held on February 6 and November 20 included an article for the library override. Both meetings required a 2/3rds majority to get it onto the ballot and both meetings failed to get that necessary majority. At the ATM, general bylaw changes and additions were put forth and approved: Article 7, Section 15 - Deny Permits/Licenses for Non-Payment of Taxes and under Article 4, The Selectboard—Section 4-5-2 an Agricultural Commission of seven (7) members appointed for overlapping terms of three (3) years to represent the Westhampton farming and forestry communities was added. At the STM held on October 30, a Right to Farm Bylaw was added to the general bylaws after approval of Town meeting participants as well as the Attorney General who must approve all general and zoning bylaws a town passes. Finally, two State Elections were held in 2006. The State Primary was held on September 19 and the State Election on November 7. Westhampton had the highest voter turnout in Hampshire County at 79.5%.

A reminder that census forms are mailed yearly to all residents of Westhampton. These are very important and it is every resident's/tenant's responsibility to complete and return the form

to the Town Clerk. Currently, it is a State law that all persons be included in the resident list of their city or town and the State imposes the penalty of removal from the voters list on anyone failing to complete and return the census.

Dog licenses are available in March for the current year. All dogs, six months and older, must be licensed by June 30, 2007. A current rabies certificate is required. Any person whose dog is not licensed by June 30, 2007 is subject to fines and penalties. A rabies clinic is usually sponsored by the Board of Health in April or May. Notices of any clinics to be held in town will be posted at the Transfer Station.

The TOWN CLERK holds office hours on most MONDAY evenings from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Services provided include copies of birth, death and marriage certificates, issuing marriage licenses, hunting and fishing licenses, dog licenses, voter registration, special permit/variance applications and the issuance of house numbers for new construction. Notary service is also available. The current month's calendar indicating meeting dates and times for Town Boards is posted on the Town Clerk's door as well as the bulletin board outside of Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla Stefansson, Clerk

I have audited the Town Clerk's records and find this report to be thorough and correct.

Charlotte R. Wood
Auditor

REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR

AS OF JUNE 30, 2006

	Real Estate Balances June 30, 2006	Personal Property Balances June 30, 2006	Motor Vehicle Balances June 30, 2006
2006	\$49,484.00	\$ 1,563.00	\$ 6,684.00
2005	13,715.00	1,613.00	1,866.00
2004	4,421.00	5,836.00	1,131.00
2003	2,144.00	73.00	700.00
Prior Years	10,964.00	7,420.00	8,934.00
TOTAL	\$80,728.00	\$16,505.00	\$19,315.00

All Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are due on the quarterly system, with due dates as follows:

1st quarter - August 1

2nd quarter - November 1

3rd quarter - February 1

4th quarter - May 1

To keep postage to a minimum, only two mailings will continue with two quarters in each mailing.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Blakesley, Tax Collector

I have reviewed the report of the Tax Collector, have checked the figures with the Assessors' commitment sheets and abatement approvals, have compared all receipts with the turn-over sheets to the Treasurer, and have met with Laura after completing my audit. To the best of my knowledge, this report is correct as submitted.

Charlotte R. Wood
Auditor

**REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTING
OFFICER**
JULY 1, 2005 - JUNE 30, 2006

Cash on Hand July 1, 2005

General	746749.00
Stabilization	28742.69
Trust Funds	40817.68
	816309.37
	816309.37

RECEIPTS

TAXES

Property	2727644.70
Farm Animal Excise	272.35
In Lieu of Taxes	13900.01
Motor Vehicle Excise	203478.34
	2945295.40

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Local Aid/Lottery	141055.00
Chapter 70 Schools	286065.00
School Transportation	17408.00
Charter School	14577.00
Library Aid	2601.36
Medicaid	10016.11
Loss of Taxes	2913.00
	474635.47

GRANTS AND GIFTS

Brush Mower	1750.00
Dog Refund	366.19
COA – Federal	1575.00
COA – State	3000.00
Cultural Council	2500.00
Charity – Street & Wright	2121.67
Police Grants	22598.00

Local Preparedness	8920.00	
Public Health Grant	1715.00	
Library Gifts	5930.71	50476.57
 GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
Licenses	423.00	
Board of Assessors	21.28	
Plumbing Fees	4364.00	
Electrical Fees	3260.00	
Sanitation Fees	605.00	
Building Permits	24041.26	
Planning Board	785.00	
Board of Appeals	1025.00	
Library	152.20	
Mark & Clear	900.00	
Town Clerk Fees	884.85	
Miscellaneous/refunds	3054.52	39516.11
 POLICE DEPARTMENT		
Motor Vehicle Fines	5140.00	
Detail Admin Fee	41.60	
Gun Permits	1237.50	
Reports	25.00	6444.10
 FIRE DEPARTMENT	2705.00	2705.00
 BOARD OF HEALTH		
Licenses & Permits	2070.00	
Septic Design	2600.00	
Perc Tests	3925.00	
Title V	1430.00	
Transfer Station Fees	42416.05	52441.05
 WETLANDS PROTECTION	330.00	330.00
 REVOLVING FUNDS		
Septic Repayment	10399.85	10399.85

SCHOOL FUNDS

Early Literacy	6800.00
REAPS grant	24213.00
94-142 Grant	9703.21
Kindergarten Grant	13180.00
Preschool	62349.19
Building Use	1550.00
Insurance Claim	23452.77
School Lunch	27974.40
Misc.	828.59
	170051.16

HIGHWAY

Miscellaneous	2148.88
Transportation Bond Issue	125288.94

INTEREST

On General Fund	18811.98
On Taxes	10499.92
On Charity Funds	147.57
On Cemetery Funds	156.33
On Library Trust	902.82
On Veterans Trust	68.22
On Stabilization	1225.46
On Septic Grant	1229.21
On Cultural Council	133.17
	33174.68

AGENCY

Dog Licenses	560.50
Fish & Wildlife Fees	563.75
Tax Collector Fees	5482.00
Deputy Collector Fees	2941.00
Meals Tax	27.68
Gun Permits	3693.75
Police Outside Detail	14087.38
Payroll Deductions	96504.22
	123860.28

LOANS		
Highway Truck	52000.00	52000.0
TOTAL RECEIPTS		4088767.4
NON-APPROPRIATION EXPENDITURES		
TAX REFUNDS		
Property Tax	12661.14	
Motor Vehicle Excise	2852.71	7550.1
AGENCY		
Dog Licenses	560.50	
Fish & Wildlife Fees	562.25	
Tax Collector Fees	3162.00	
Deputy Collector Fees	2636.00	
Meals Tax	27.68	
Gun Permits	2693.75	
Police Detail	14199.38	
Payroll Deductions	104737.96	128579.5
SCHOOL REVOLVING FUNDS & GRANTS		
Early Literacy	6800.00	
REAPS grant	22721.86	
94-142 Grant	8598.34	
Kindergarten Grant	12444.53	
Preschool	75782.26	
Summer Revolving	5726.00	
Building Use	550.00	
Insurance Claim	23452.77	
School Lunch	28630.45	
		184706.2
SPECIAL REVOLVING FUNDS & GRANTS		
Brush Mower	3510.39	
Cultural Council	3397.00	
Concert Gifts	1550.00	
Council on Aging Federal	1618.83	

Council on Aging State	3000.00
Local Preparedness	20920.00
Fire Grants	7844.69
Highway Funds	241795.23
Library Gifts	7607.69
Library Other	584.56
Library Grant/Match	1475.00
State Aid to Library	2688.02
Police Grants	24654.63
Septic Grant	350.00
Town Hall Gifts	81.09
	321077.13
STATE ASSESSMENTS	
School Choice	15447.00
Charter School	23007.00
	38454.00
STREET & WRIGHT	
	272.24
	272.24
TOTAL Non-Appropriation	
	680639.25
NET ACCRUALS	
	856.51
APPROPRIATION EXPENDITURES	
See Appropriation Report for Detail	3696809.33
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	
	4378305.09
Cash on Hand June 30, 2006	
General	455014.90
Stabilization	29968.15
Trust Funds	41788.72
	526771.77

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Parsons Accounting Officer

APPROPRIATION REPORT FISCAL 2006

ACCOUNT	BALANCE 7/1/2005	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS (IN OR OUT)	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE CLOSED	BALANCE TO F2007
MODERATOR	0.00	150.00	150.00	0.00	0.00
SELECTMEN SALARY	0.00	3200.00	3200.00	0.00	0.00
SELECTMEN EXPENSE	0.00	3900.00	400.00	1013.50	1013.50
Travel/Dues				1029.02	1029.02
Town Report				230.00	230.00
Town Hall sub				<u>2022.52</u>	<u>2022.52</u>
Supplies/advertising				4295.04	4.96
ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.	0.00	11435.00	11435.00	0.00	0.00
AUDITOR SALARY	0.00	150.00	150.00	0.00	0.00
ACCOUNTING OFF SALARY	0.00	9599.00	9599.00	0.00	0.00
ACCOUNTING EXPENSE	0.00	1275.00	1275.00	650.00	650.00
Software Support				575.00	575.00
Supplies/computer				<u>50.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>
Dues/Travel				1275.00	0.00
FINANCIAL SOFTWARE	25500.00			600.00	24900.00

ASSESSORS SALARY	0.00	7000.00	7000.00	0.00
ASSESSORS EXPENSE				
Dues/Travel				
Revaluation	195.00			
Tax map encumbrance	100010.50			
Registry of Deeds	2700.00			
Consortium	262.00			
Data entry	1500.00			
Supplies/Forms	400.00			
	<u>372.08</u>			
	15439.58			0.00
ASSESSORS SECRETARY	0.00	1500.00	1500.00	0.00
TREASURER SALARY		9599.00	9599.00	0.00
TREASURER EXPENSE	0.00	2725.00	2725.00	
Software Support			1042.15	
Bank Charges			513.29	
Dues/travel			140.00	
Postage			693.90	
Supplies/equipment			<u>332.42</u>	
			2721.76	3.24
TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE	2815.00	225.00	225.00	
Postage/envelopes			1542.95	
Supplies			606.85	
Tax Bills			311.04	
Tax Taking Expense			483.18	
Dues/Travel			<u>85.24</u>	
			3029.26	10.74

TAX COLLECTOR SALARY	0.00	7062.00	0.00
COUNSEL FEES	0.00	4000.00	5044.60
TOWN CLERK SALARY	0.00	6246.00	6246.00
TOWN CLERK EXPENSE			
Election Officers/Police		594.02	
Supplies/Printing		695.85	
Dues/Travel		<u>60.00</u>	
		1349.87	0.13
CLERK BOARD REGISTRAR	0.00	50.00	50.00
CONSERVATION COMMISSION	0.00	265.00	
Dues/Travel		160.00	105.00
PLANNING BOARD EXPENSE	0.00	200.00	140.28
TOWN OFFICES	8500.00	500.00	591.69
Custodian			1922.20
Electricity			766.32
Telephone			60.00
Comcast			325.00
Copier			469.44
Lawns			2458.80
Fuel			259.87
Repairs/Improvements			<u>1145.03</u>
Supplies			8998.35
			1.65

TOWN HALL REPAIRS

8244.67

8244.67

POLICE DEPARTMENT

37925.00

1840.00

Payroll	25950.00
Mileage	412.30
Equipment	7161.85
WMLEC	250.00
Dues	0.00
Office/misc	2447.95
Maintenance	1964.63
Telephone/pagers	<u>1281.49</u>
	39468.22
	296.78
	4000.00
	0.00

FIRE CHIEF**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Training	382.00
Communications	2,008.40
Vehicle repair/maintenance	2,553.44
Equipment repair/maintenance	182.85
Telephone & postage	567.36
Subscriptions	30.00
Fire Chief Expenses/mlsc	1,028.65
Equipment New	4,158.19

SAFETY COMPLEX

Electricity	1,330.02
Heat	5,356.70
Repair/Maintenance	<u>440.54</u>
	7127.26
	422.74

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

6000.00

Ambulance
Training-1400.00
3600.00
300.00
3900.00
700.00**INSPECTOR SALARY**

Building Inspector
Sub Building Inspector
Plumbing Inspector
Sanitation Inspector
Wiring Inspector

0.00 9500.00 1902.50

5500.00
102.50
2460.00
380.00
2960.00
11402.50
0.00

BUILDING INSPECTOR EXP

Forms
Travel

145.54
254.00
399.54
0.46

CIVIL DEFENSE

1.00 0.00

1430.00 70.00

480.00 0.00

965342.81
SCHOOL COMMITTEE SALARY
See Elementary Report

75.19

SCHOOL CHOICE
Cherry Sheet Estimate

16015.00 15447.00

568.00 568.00

CHARTER SCHOOL				
Cherry Sheet Estimate				
VOCATIONAL TUITION	0.00	188536.00	-28653.00	159882.15
VOCATIONAL TRANSPORTATION				
HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL H.S.	0.00	27324.00		27324.00
				0.00
			875000.00	875000.00
				0.00
HRHS DEBT		146512.00		146512.00
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION	0.00			
		3413.00		3413.00
Uniforms				1474.65
Telephone				750.99
Supplies				738.27
Licenses				240.00
Dues & Travel				<u>165.00</u>
				3368.91
				44.09
HIGHWAY SALARIES	0.00			
		149000.00	300.00	148896.77
HOLIDAY PAY	0.00			403.23
VACATION PAY	0.00			5188.00
HIGHWAY MATERIALS	0.00			0.00
Road Maintenance				6502.06
				22.94
			45000.00	
				44557.14
				442.86

SNOW REMOVAL

Overtime	40873.07
Winter Sand	12456.93
Salt	26793.96
Supplies/Repairs	36616.17
	<u>7006.01</u>
	82873.07
	0.00

42000.00

ROAD MACHINERY	
Repairs	22000.00
Parts/Supplies	-411.22
Brush Mower	3722.90
	17356.19
	<u>350.00</u>
	21429.09
	159.69
HIGHWAY TRUCK - BORROWED	
ROAD MACHINERY FUEL	52000.00
	22110.00
ROAD MACHINERY BUILDINGS	20628.72
Electricity	0.00
Heat	0.00
Supplies/Maintenance	-3000.00
	1481.28
NEW HIGHWAY BUILDING	
Contractor	211699.32
Salt Shed	76170.00
	<u>129590.49</u>
	205760.49
	5938.83

VETERANS	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00
VETERANS AGENT SALARY	0.00	1154.00	1154.00	0.00
MEMORIAL DAY	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
CULTURAL COUNCIL		75.00	30.00	45.00
BOARD OF HEALTH SALARY	2925.00		900.00	
Perc tests/Title V			1998.00	
			2898.00	27.00
BOARD OF HEALTH EXPENSE	63690.00	536.64	6172.87	
Landfill Attendant			27991.50	
Hauling			18080.30	
Tipping Fees			776.82	
Transfer station utilities			912.50	
Electronics			242.00	
Tire Collection			185.00	
Propane			125.00	
Oil recovery			6200.00	
Landfill monitoring fees			620.00	
Landfill Cap mowing			900.00	
Permit/Stickers			523.07	
Misc Transfer Station supplies/exp			364.33	
BOH Supplies/misc/training			240.00	
Transfer station telephone			560.25	
Office help/consulting fees			333.00	
Field Service			64226.64	0.00

HILLTOWN RESOURCE MGT.

		4902.80	0.20
CEMETERY SALARY	0.00	4718.00	0.00
DOG OFFICER		250.00	250.00
ANIMAL INSPECTOR		500.00	0.00
LIBRARY	0.00	54500.00	
Salaries		42272.57	
Utilities, Lawns and Repairs		1975.18	
Books and Supplies		<u>10252.25</u>	
		54500.00	
DEBT AND INTEREST			
LANDFILL CAPPING LOAN		45000.00	0.00
HIGHWAY GARAGE/FIRETRUCK		95000.00	0.00
TOWN HALL REPAIR LOAN		20000.00	0.00
INTEREST LONG TERM DEBT		75900.00	-1200.00
INTEREST SHORT TERM DEBT		20000.00	-642.00

UNCLASSIFIED

INSURANCE & BONDS	44000.00	2264.00	46222.45	41.55	
COUNCIL ON AGING	1000.00		883.57	116.43	
HISTORICAL	150.00		149.80	0.20	
COUNTY RETIREMENT	77018.00		77018.00	0.00	
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS	8111.00		8111.00	0.00	
UNEMPLOYMENT	12300.00		-12299.57	0.43	
GROUP INSURANCE	220000.00		-1145.00	218854.77	0.23
MEDICARE	16000.00		-2138.22	13827.45	34.33
LAND DAMAGE		1.00		0.00	1.00
RESERVE FUND		4000.00		1840.00	
To Police Department				6.38	
To Counsel Fees				400.00	
To Selectboard Expense				185.00	
To Road Machinery				500.00	
To Town Offices Expense				225.00	
To Tax Collector Expense				<u>200.00</u>	
To Assessors Expense				3356.38	643.62
Totals	219943.99	3520997.00	0.00	3696809.33	29948.16
					14183.50

BALANCE SHEET JUNE 30, 2006**GENERAL FUND****ASSETS**

Pooled Cash	\$ 338851.10
Personal Property Receivable	16505.46
Real Estate Tax Receivable	82384.49
Allowance for Abatements	-59087.82
Tax Titles & Possessions	4522.20
Motor Vehicle Excise Receivable	19725.12
Farm Animal Excise Receivable	540.45
Classified Forest Tax Receivable	52.80
Subtotal Taxes	<u>64642.70</u>
Total Assets	403493.80

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	-7871.27
Accrued Payrolls Payable	-41247.16
Def Rev Property Taxes	-39802.13
Deferred Revenue Tax Liens	-4522.20
Deferred Revenue MVE	-19725.12
Deferred Revenue Farm Animal	-540.45
Deferred Revenue Forest Prod.	<u>-52.80</u>
Subtotal Liabilities	-113761.13

FUND BALANCE

Reserve for Expenditures	-62000
Undesignated Fund Balance	-202832.67
Res Continuing Appropriations	<u>-24900.00</u>
Subtotal Fund Balance	-289732.67
Total Liabilities/Fund Balance	-403493.80

SCHOOL FUNDS

ASSETS

Pooled Cash 30901.59

LIABILITIES

Accrued Payrolls Payable -2418.09

FUND BALANCE

School Lunch 857.12

School Building Use -8259.86

Preschool Program -9683.8

Kindergarten Enhancement -92.79

94-412 Grant -1238.95

GAPS Grant -10280.13

Summer Program 1930.51

Early Literacy -1400.00

Subtotal Fund Balance -28483.50

Total Liabilities/Fund Balance -30901.59

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

ASSETS

Pooled Cash -116506.29

FUND BALANCE

STRAP Grant 54869.76

Chapter 291 9204.05

Chapter 291B 52432.48

Total Liabilities/Fund Balance 116506.29

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE

ASSETS

Pooled Cash 59901.12

FUND BALANCE

Cultural Council -2362.68

Concert Gifts -1470.00

225 Celebration	-4914.60
Water Gift	-604.70
Town Hall Gift	-14.70
Highway Gift	-50.00
Brush Mower	-810.79
Tree Gift	-34.68
Septic Repair Program	-37423.86
Cemetery Gift	-1084.65
Library Gifts	-8828.09
Library Averill	-2010.19
Conservation Grant	<u>-292.18</u>
 Total Liabilities/Fund Balance	 -59901.12

RECEIPTS RESERVED FOR APPROPRIATION ASSETS

Pooled Cash	114166.92
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FUND BALANCE

Sale of Town Property	106000.00
County Dog Refund	-370.25
Wetlands Conservation	<u>-7796.67</u>

Total Liabilities/Fund Balance	-114166.92
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STATE & FEDERAL GRANTS

ASSETS

Pooled Cash	2496.48
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FUND BALANCE

Public Health Grant	-1715.00
COA Federal	-6.75
Library Grant Match	-11096.48
State Aid to Library	-2601.36
Police Vests	1360.00
Police Grant 2006	-1.60
Local Preparedness	12000.00

Safe Grant	-125.00
Safe Grant 2005	-310.29
Total Liabilities/Fund Balance	-2496.48
CAPITAL PROJECTS	
ASSETS	
Pooled Cash	14183.50
FUND BALANCE	
Town Hall Repairs	-8244.67
Highway Building	<u>-5938.83</u>
Total Liabilities/Fund Balance	-14183.50
NON-EXPENDIBLE TRUSTS	
ASSETS	
Pooled Cash	7153.00
FUND BALANCE	
Street & Wright	-2400.54
Thayer Trust	-1015.01
Fund Balance Cemetery Trust	<u>-3737.45</u>
Total Liabilities/Fund Balance	-7153.00
EXPENDIBLE TRUSTS	
Pooled Cash	68088.95
FUND BALANCE	
Veterans	-1692.10
Street & Wright	-2073.11
Thayer	-482.46
Cemetery	-929.51

Library	-32967.52
Stabilization	<u>-29944.25</u>

Total Liabilities/Fund Balance	-68088.95
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AGENCY

Assets

Pooled Cash	7535.40
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Liabilities	-7535.40
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DEBT

ASSETS

Amts. to be provided BANS	72000.00
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Amts. to be provided Bonds	<u>1680000.00</u>
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Total Assets	1752000.00
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LIABILITIES

Town Hall Repairs Notes	-20000.00
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Highway Truck	-52000.00
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Landfill Capping Bonds	-145000.00
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Highway Garage/Fire Truck	<u>-1535000.00</u>
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Total Liabilities/Fund Balance	-1752000.00
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REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Balance July 1, 2005	\$ 816,309.37
Receipts	4,088,767.49
Disbursements	-4,378,305.09
Balance June 30, 2006	\$526,771.77

Bank Western Massachusetts Checking	265.56
Bank Western Massachusetts Money Market	91,457.79
Easthampton Savings Capital CD	147,400.85
Easthampton Savings Bank Collector	12,289.03
Easthampton Savings Sweep	20,062.19
Easthampton Savings Deputy Collector	12,557.88
Easthampton Savings Bank Charity	2126.37
MMDT General	96,768.03
MMDT Cultural Council	2,362.68
MMDT Septic Grant	35,370.14
Bank Western Massachusetts Septic	2,053.72
Unibank	23,957.61
Unibank Online Collection	8,343.05
MMDT Charity Trust	\$3,415.56
MMDT Cemetery Trust	3,737.44
MMDT Veterans Trust	1,668.20
MMDT Library Trust	32,967.52
MMDT Stabilization Fund	<u>29,968.15</u>
Balance June 30, 2006	\$526,771.77

Interest earned - \$33,174.68

Respectfully submitted

Margaret A. Parsons, Treasurer

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

As of January 1, 2006 the Finance Committee members and the end dates of their respective terms were:

Priscilla Flynn	2006
Ellice Gonzalez	2006
Margaret Parsons	2006
Karla Stefansson	2006
Stacey Jenkins	2007
Mark Thornhill	2007
Owen Bowman	2007
David Brown	2008
Bret LaFrance	2008
Lisa Kennedy	2008

At the town elections in June, all four incumbents were re-elected and their terms run until 2009.

Reserve Fund transfers made in Fiscal 2006 were as follows:

To Police Department	\$ 1,840.00
To Counsel Fees	6.38
To Selectboard Expense	400.00
To Road Machinery	185.00
To Town Offices Expense	500.00
To Tax Collector Expense	225.00
To Assessors Expense	<u>200.00</u>
	\$ 3356.38

The following Finance Committee recommendations were approved at Special Town Meetings on September 26, 2005 and February 6, April 3, and June 26, 2006:

Assessors Expense for maps	\$ 2,500
Counsel Fees	3,000
Financial Software	25,500

Snow Removal	\$ 40,273.00
Counsel Fees	2,038.22
Inspector Salary	1,902.50

The Finance Committee voted in support of the Library project, subject to debt exclusion. The majority of the committee felt, that taken as a whole, the project would benefit the town.

The budget process started in early spring with each of the town departments and services completing their budget requests for the 2007 fiscal year. The State Government was also busy reconciling the budgets put forth by the Governor, House and Senate. The Westhampton Finance Committee began its work, to produce a balanced budget, from a proposed budget with a \$231,290.00 shortfall. This, as in the past, proved difficult since taken individually each department's request was sound.

To achieve a balanced budget recommendation for Town Meeting, the Finance Committee recommended funding the front end loader and police vehicle contingent upon approval of a Capital Exclusion (Proposition 2.5 Override) ballot question.

The Committee also recommended a number of cuts, to requested funding levels, including reducing Hampshire Regional High School's funding request by \$23,513, Snow Removal Account by \$20,000, Westhampton Elementary School by \$10,000 and Highway Materials by \$6,125. The Finance Committee also reduced Free Cash by \$18,000.

Town meeting restored the funding requests to both the Hampshire Regional High School and the Westhampton Elementary School. The Selectboard authorized ballot

questions for the June election for capital exclusions for the loader, which passed, and the police vehicle, which failed.

The budget was balanced when updated “new growth” figures became available. Unanticipated revenue of \$100,000 in new growth allowed for a balanced budget. The excess new growth was not raised on the tax rate.

Respectfully submitted,

David Brown, Chairman

REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The winter of 2005-2006 started out stormy and ended warm and dry. Storms on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day kept us busy. The rest of the winter produced no major storms, but many small nuisance type storms. \$82,873.03 was spent on snow removal this winter season. March and April proved to be warm and dry which made for a pot hole and mud season that wasn’t bad.

During March, fourteen days were spent cutting and burning brush at various locations around town. This job never ends. Due to the dry weather in April, we were unable to get burning permits to continue this work.

Spring clean up went as usual with all hard surfaced roads swept.

Annual Town Meeting 2006 voted to purchase a new bucket loader and a sander for the Highway Department. The bucket

loader was purchased off the State bids. It is a 2006 John Deere 544J; basically it is the same machine that it replaced, a 1996 John Deere 544G. A new sander was purchased from Zwack, Inc. It replaces our oldest one that was purchased in 1992. The rest of our equipment remains in good condition and serves us well.

June 22, 2006 ended our five year shared brush mower lease agreement with Western Mass Electric Company. The tractor and mower are now owned by the Town of Westhampton.

In June, time was spent sandblasting and painting three of our truck bodies and under frames. This is a time consuming job, but can be done much cheaper in house than hiring it done.

Crack sealing was done on Route 66, Stage Road and Kings Highway.

Line painting was done on Route 66, Stage Road, Loudville Road, Southampton Road and Montague Road.

Throughout the summer and fall, beavers continued to cause problems on Lyman Road, Route 66 and Northwest Road. If left unattended at these sites, the road would be under water. On Lyman Road and Route 66, the only alternative is to remove the beavers. At the Northwest Road site, we try to coexist with the beavers using a series of pond leveling devices and fences. For the most part this works, but requires constant monitoring and maintenance. At this site, history has proven it is nearly impossible to keep them out, due to the natural habitat.

During the summer, all catch basins were cleaned. A new basin and culvert were installed at 15 Kings Highway; repairs were made to basins at 64 Southampton Road.

Most of our time during summer and fall was spent working on the Hathaway Road reconstruction project. The entire road bed was excavated to remove any undesirable material. Then fill and gravel were brought in and compacted to bring it up to grade. A 600 foot section of water line leading to the Elementary School needed to be lowered to prevent freezing due to a grade change in the road. Work will resume in the late spring, installing the drainage system. Hopefully, we can get a base coat of black top on by the end of the season.

South Road: I could fill this book many times over writing about the South Road reconstruction project. In summary, at this time the design has finally been approved. The funding is finally in place. The project has finally been advertised and the Massachusetts Highway Department has a bid opening date of June 5, 2007 2:00P.M. in Boston.

Special thanks to Peter Montague, Jerry Ostrowski, and Mike Robbins for their continued hard work and dedication to this department.

Respectfully submitted,

David Blakesley
Highway Superintendent

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Westhampton Police continues to reorganize to improve service and community outreach. Our on call, part time department faces the challenges of a full time community. Each day we strive to provide the best possible services our resources allow. In the past year, several improvements have

been made internally to move toward achieving this goal. Additions this year to the department include:

- A Sergeant was appointed to assist at court and in the filing of firearms applications and renewals. Through some minor changes in filing, the application and renewal process, although not quick, has been shortened by streamlining submissions to the state.
- Training: 1. All officers have attended 24 hours of in-service training to include criminal law, patrol procedures and drug updates. 2. Through the help of the fire department, all officers are re-certified in first aid and CPR. 3. Firearms qualifications are complete. Specialized training will be explored in the near future.
- A daily log documenting phone calls, officer patrols and calls for service has been developed and utilized to track department activity. Computer software installation will only improve this documentation.
- The sergeant's 10 hours per week in addition to the Chief's 25 hours allow for approximately 35 hours per week of coverage for the town.

As requested, the following is a synopsis of calls for service that were handled in 2006:

- Emergency/paged out Calls	132
To Include:	
- 4 arrests	
- 17 disturbances	
- 6 B&E	
- 12 larcenies	
- 5 domestic calls	
- 5 vandalism	
- 1 assault	
- 45 panic or motion alarms	
- 24 suspicious vehicles/persons	
- 13 medical assists	
- 16 Accidents	

- Non-Emergency/paged out Calls	96
Total	228
- Officers reported to station for message check	750
- Phone calls to the station requiring response by officer	519

The department endeavors to improve community outreach. In the past year, the department:

- coordinated the “Ofc. Phil crime prevention program” in the elementary school. This program has been scheduled to continue in the schools as a yearly event. To those who provided financial support, thank you.
- provided support to the “Triad” program of Westhampton.
- continues to cooperate and build a working relationship with the Hampshire Regional faculty and staff to reduce crime and improve safety at the high school. A mutual aid agreement with the five regional towns is being explored to provide additional services as needed.
- continued to improve the working relationship with the fire and highway departments When the emergency tones sound, all departments work to achieve one common goal of safe, professional service.
- continues to improve patrol/investigative strategies to address issues and concerns of the community.

The Westhampton Police will continue to be open-minded and accept constructive suggestions on how to improve services. The non-emergency line is checked at least twice per day. An officer will return your call. In the event an officer is needed immediately for an emergency, please call 911. The MSP dispatch will page out a town officer for response. In the event an officer is not available, the state police will respond to the emergency.

Firearms applications and renewals are accepted on the second

Wednesday of each month between 6 pm and 7 pm.

If you should have any questions or concerns, please call.
Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

David White
Chief of Police

REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Westhampton Fire Department is comprised of twenty-five volunteers. The department's fleet of apparatus consists of two engines, one water tanker, one brush truck, one rescue truck, and one utility vehicle. The department responded to one hundred and twenty-eight fire and emergency medical calls this last year. These calls for service were for fire suppression, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, motor vehicle accidents, utility wires down, residential fire alarm activations, and many more. In addition, over three hundred inspections and permits were completed and issued throughout the year. These inspections and permits can range from smoke detector and carbon monoxide inspections, installation of oil burners and propane tanks, and issuing burning permits and fireworks display permits.

All of the members of the Westhampton Fire Department continue to improve their emergency skills and competencies by attending in house training at least twice a month, participating in Hampshire County training programs throughout the region, or by attending State sanctioned training programs. Federal and State mandates have increased

the demands placed on all personnel in addition to their other responsibilities. This past year, all fire personnel were trained in the National Incident Management System (NIMS). This program is designed to train all emergency response organizations how to respond to emergencies in a coordinated response. This was a federal mandate issued by President Bush after the terrorist attacks on 9/11. Communities who do not comply with the requirements become ineligible for any federal and state grant opportunities. To date, the Westhampton Fire Department has been one of the leaders in the region having all personnel trained beyond the minimum requirements in order to remain compliant.

The department continues to remain aggressive in pursuing competitive state and federal grant opportunities to help supplement the operating budget. This past year we received \$15,000 from the Executive Office of Public Safety for purchasing equipment to improve our department's operational capabilities and firefighter safety. The SAFE program continues to be funded by grants issued by the State in order to provide the elementary school children education on fire safety and awareness. Department personnel volunteer their time to go about four times a year to the elementary school and work with the staff to help deliver a valuable program to the kids.

Department personnel continue care for and maintain the Public Safety Complex and make improvements to help prolong the life of the building. Our members renovated the public bathroom, which is located in the old highway garage bays, and new garage doors were added to increase the security of the building and help reduce the heat loss from the building.

The members of the Westhampton Fire Department continue to do much more than respond to emergencies. Throughout the years, they continue to clean residents chimneys each fall, hang the flags on the utility poles in the center of town when needed, get involved in community sponsored events such as the Halloween parade, fill residences swimming pools, and put up house numbers for residences to help emergency responders find the proper location and increase response times. The Westhampton Fire Department is one of the few volunteer departments left in the region, and all of the members are very dedicated and proud to serve the residents and community.

The Westhampton Fire Department would finally like to thank Chief John Shaw and Chief Wayne Buzzee who both step away from the department after dedicating countless hours and responding to numerous emergencies over the years. Their experience and knowledge will be greatly missed, but their lessons and teachings will not be forgotten.

We would all like thank the residences for your continued support throughout the year in helping to make our job easier. We strive to improve our knowledge and services to help make Westhampton a safer community to live. Through our members values of professionalism, honesty, integrity, compassion, and dedication we will continue to meet the needs of the residents and remain “Committed to the Community”. Have a great year and stay safe.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher W. Norris
Acting Fire Chief

REPORT OF THE VETERANS AGENT

As we have expected, our Veteran's Department presently is serving an overwhelming amount of calls from returning Veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan requesting the VA benefits due to them.

The Approximate 207 Veteran centers located in the fifty states have increased their staff due to a tremendous increase in Veterans seeking counseling for PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) from mental health service. Starting from October 2005 through June 2006, the amount of veterans has more than doubled from 4467 to 9103.

Many VA, Social Security, and Veteran's Services Benefits are available to veterans, widows of veterans, and dependents of veterans. These benefits include medical payment for many of our clients. If there are any concerns please call your Veterans Agent at (413) 323-5992.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C. Messier (VSO)

REPORT OF THE ANIMAL INSPECTOR

The annual Farm Animal Census was completed in December, as required by the MGL with the following results:

Horses	126
Donkeys/mules	9
Dairy Cattle	307
Beef Cattle	36
Oxen	1
Sheep	29
Goats	53
Llamas	1
Pigs	2
Chickens	208
Water Fowl	38
Guineas	8
Peafowl	10
Turkeys	9
Rabbits	2

The animals all appeared healthy and well cared for.

There was one cat tested for rabies and one six month quarantine; both with negative results.

Rabies is an ongoing concern locally, while bird flu and other issues are being monitored at the state and national level.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard I. Tracy
Animal Health Inspector

**REPORT OF
THE WESTHAMPTON
INSPECTORS' FEES COMMITTEE
2007
(A SUMMARY)**

OVERVIEW

The Inspectors' Fees Study Committee was formed by the Selectboard of the Town of Westhampton and charged to "review fees paid to all inspectors and make recommendations to the Selectboard...as to any changes that the Committee might determine to be appropriate." To avoid confusion over the term "inspector," the committee redefined its task to "review compensation paid for all inspections: to inspectors, elected officials, volunteers and others." References to "inspector" in this text, therefore, will refer to all of those categories. With that in mind, the committee interviewed members of building, health, sanitation, plumbing/gas and fire departments to study their views on the fees the town charges, and the compensation they receive. We also compared Westhampton fees and salaries with those of other Hampshire County towns, focusing on those with populations close to that of Westhampton.

Using the above information, we:

- a) compared with each other the compensations paid by Westhampton for various inspections;
- b) compared the compensation paid to inspectors in Westhampton to those in other towns;
- c) compared the fees charged by Westhampton for inspections to those of other towns.

DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. The level of compensation for building, fire, electrical, plumbing/gas and sanitation should be maintained at the current level and should continue to use the current compensation methods.** The committee feels the compensations are fair given the fact that the job requirements are generally fixed and clearly spelled out, and the building, electrical, plumbing and sanitation inspectors are performing tasks that they are proficient at due to their professions. While we found some disparity in our calculated comparisons between the sanitation and electrical inspectors' pay, the current inspectors themselves have no problems with their rates. Moreover, the overall compensations, while low, are generally not too far out of line with those of similar towns, hence we recommend they be left as is. Likewise, due to the recent institution of the \$20/inspection for fire inspections, we recommend that the compensation for fire related inspections be maintained at the current level.
- 2. The job of witnessing percolation and Title 5 tests should be given over to certified inspectors on a fee-for-service basis.** This approach, used in Worthington and other towns, would obviate the need for re-training and re-certifying new board of health officials as they come on board. The inspections would then be performed as needed by a stable set of trained inspectors that can be called on as needed. The town could explore using the community of available inspectors in the region, and could consider compensation for training inspectors (approximately two weeks) if there is a perceived inspector shortfall. The committee also feels it is reasonable for current and past board of health officials to perform these inspections under this format.

3. The compensation for doing percs and Title 5 inspections should be raised to \$30/hr for the first three hours and \$25/hr for each subsequent hour. The committee has determined that this is the average "going rate" in the region. This should be the rate whether the work is done by board of health officials or by specialized inspectors.

4. All fees charged by Westhampton to the user/home owner should be brought in line with those of surrounding towns and county averages. The committee feels that since Westhampton's fees are lower in most cases than the average in similar towns, this will result in some increase in revenue and no obvious negatives for Westhampton. The increased revenue can potentially offset the increased compensation needed for some of the previous recommendations.

5. In the near future the town should examine the feasibility of relying on town volunteers for tasks that require significant training and large time commitments. It should also look at the efficiency of repeatedly retraining and recertifying people for the same tasks over time. Our committee noted this to be a particular issue with the Board of Health and the Fire Department.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The town should consider in the future whether health inspections of food establishments, the campground and other health related inspections for which permits are issued should be compensated at a similar rate as other inspections (\$20/inspection). The committee believes inspecting food and health-related establishments is no less a question of safety than is the livability and safety of a house, and should be done by certified individuals and be compensated appropriately, as is done in similar town in the region. The committee feels this issue requires additional

research and may have a long-term impact on the fiscal requirements of the town. The committee leaves it for the town to decide if this should be dealt with in the near term or in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Aniko Giordano
Phoebe Mitchell
Janus Ternullo

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

The Westhampton Board of Health had another interesting year. All members of the Board, as well as our Health Agent, Jackie Duda, have now been trained in Incident Command Structure and the National Incident Management System, two programs required by Homeland Security for all Board's of Health and other town officials who may be required to respond to certain emergencies.

Through our successful application to the Department of Environmental Protection, the Board has been given permission to reduce environmental monitoring requirements at the capped landfill, and in so doing we have saved on monitoring costs.

This past year we renegotiated the waste hauling contracts; through the competitive bidding process we were able to reduce hauling costs, thereby making our recycling effort more efficient.

Westhampton continues to work with our partner, the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative, through which its only

employee, Eric Weiss, assists the Board in managing the town's waste management and recycling programs. Last year Westhampton residents recycled 41% of their waste, and in doing so saved the town \$31,709 in what would have otherwise been dumping and hauling costs for that same refuse. So it is true that every can and bottle, and every piece of paper and cardboard that you take time to recycle do make a difference to the town budget. Together with fees collected for transfer station permits, perc tests and septic construction permits, and other permits such as food licenses, these savings allow us to balance our budget so that our operating costs are nearly level funded.

The Board of Health continues to meet at 7:00 PM on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted

Martin Flynn
Thomas Martin
William Magrone

REPORT OF THE HILLCITY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE

The HRMC is a unique regional cooperative organization which was created in 1989 by concerned residents in the towns of Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg and Worthington. The primary mission of the HRMC is to assist its member Towns with the planning and management of their solid waste management and recycling programs and since 1989 the HRMC has been doing just that.

On an annual basis the HRMC assists your Town in the following ways;

- 1) Budget savings on annual disposal costs through careful management of the Towns waste management and recycling programs.
- 2) Assist the local officials in your Town with the Town transfer station/recycling center operations, budget planning, as well as any DEP related enforcement and filing issues as they arise.
- 3) Help protect the environment through the recycling of glass, cans, plastic bottles, paper, newspaper, junk mail, cardboard, electronics, tires, propane tanks, paint, clothes and other common household products.
- 4) Operating the regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Paint Recycling and Electronics Recycling programs to help keep toxic materials out of our local environment.
- 5) Assist your Town directly with the bidding of recycling hauling, solid waste hauling, disposal contracts and transfer station equipment
- 6) Obtaining cash and equipment grants to assist your Town, when available.
- 7) Assist your Town with the development new recycling programs when needed.
- 8) Advocate on behalf of its member Towns with State legislators.

Last year in the Town of Westhampton the HRMC helped:

- 1) Your Towns save \$ 17,480.39 in disposal costs.
- 2) Your Town Earn \$ 4,159.51 in recycling revenue.

Therefore for the annual assessment amount of \$ 4,978.10 Westhampton received over \$21,639.90 in indirect costs savings and revenues combined!

The HRMC Administrator, Eric Weiss, our one and only employee helps all HRMC member Towns with these many tasks. Last year the HRMC helped the Towns (combined) recycle over 2256 tons of materials, saving the Towns over \$153,720.00 in direct disposal costs savings and earning the Towns (combined) over \$37.988.00 in recycling revenues!

We look forward to continuing to help you and your Town protect the environment and save money. If you have any questions about recycling or have a waste disposal problem, please call us at (413)268-3845 or email us hrmc@crocker.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Weiss
Administrator, HRMC

REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board reviewed and approved very few building lots and building permit applications this past year. The Board denied a Special Permit for a lot located off of Route 66 for the sale of used cars. The Board granted a Special Permit for a business located on Northwest Road to build and restore antique racing machines. The Board also began looking into a proposed subdivision called Blueberry Hills for 9 lots off of Route 66 near the Huntington line.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark T. Schwallie, Chair

REPORT OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board meets regularly on the second Tuesday of every month, with some extra meetings scheduled when it is necessary. At these meetings we sign off on building permit applications, answer questions people may have, study regulations and new laws, and generally try to keep abreast of zoning laws. It would be good if we could get involved with the Association of Zoning Appeals Boards, but that has not happened yet.

At the January meeting members of the board were Wayne Parks, Leo Aloisi, Richard W. Tracy, John Kelsey, David Shelton, and Suzanne Wolf. Leo Aloisi was reelected chairman and Richard W. Tracy was elected as clerk. The board has room for one more member and if anyone is interested in filling that position they should speak with the Selectboard or any one of us.

We held 10 public hearings in 2006. Several of them required multiple sessions.

On January 10th a public hearing for special permit at 48 Tipping Rock Road. Special permit granted.

On February 14th a public hearing for a variance for land on Pomeroy Mountain Road. Variance denied.

On May 30th a public hearing seeking a special permit at 75 Montague Road. Special permit granted.

On May 30th a public hearing seeking a special permit at 43 Pine Island Lake, on East Shore Road. A variance was

granted. The decision has been appealed and is in the court system.

On July 26th a public hearing seeking a special permit at 155 Main Road. Appeal was not accepted on advice of town counsel that we did not have jurisdiction.

On November 14th a public hearing seeking a variance at 57 Pine Island Lake on South Shore Road. Request was withdrawn without prejudice.

On November 14th a public hearing seeking a variance at 12 Pine Island Lake on West Shore Road. Variance granted.

On December 12th a public hearing seeking a special permit and a variance at 50 Pine Island Lake on Cove Road. Special permit granted. Variance hearing continued.

On December 12th a public hearing seeking a special permit at 25A Pine Island Lake on North Shore Road. Special permit granted.

On December 12th a public hearing seeking a special permit at 2 Pine Island Lake on Reservoir Road. Special permit granted.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard W. Tracy, Clerk

REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Chairman: Tom Jenkins

Members: Steve Holt, Clint Parsons, Brad Morse, Mark Young, Fred Morrison, Bob LaPalme, (secretary)

Comments: The year has been a busy one with several ongoing projects needing attention by the conservation commission. These projects included the establishment of an Agriculture Commission for the town, and the South Road project most notably.

Summary of Con Com Activities for the past year. Numbers approximate filings for the year 2006:

Public hearings conducted	9
Notice of Intent filed	3
Request for Determination of Applicability	8
Site visits	15
Certificate of compliance	1
Order of conditions	6
Enforcement order	1
Title V review (septic, new or repair)	3

Respectfully submitted,

Bob LaPalme, Secretary

REPORT OF THE OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

The Open Space Committee is an advisory committee which meets on the third Thursday of each month at the Westhampton Memorial Library. Members are Ellen Bartos, David Majercik, Kate Parsons, Laurie Sanders, Rick Tracy, and Tad Weiss. The committee is charged with updating and implementing the Action Plan within the town's current Open Space & Recreation Plan. These action items concern a wide range of natural resource and recreation issues, from groundwater protection and farm viability to promoting land protection. Our up-to-date, state-approved Open Space & Recreation Plan also allows Westhampton to apply for certain state grants and gives our town a higher score on competitive state programs related to planning, conservation and recreation.

During 2006 the committee worked with the City of Northampton on protecting land in and around Turkey Hill. As part of that, the Committee applied for and was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Highland Communities Initiative (HCI). These funds were used to secure a conservation restriction on the portion of the Turkey Hill property that lies in Westhampton. This tract includes a beaver pond, stream, forested wetland and upland forest. In addition, the committee has organized nature walks around town, produced articles in the Belltower on local maple syruping operations, and in March 2007, organized a well-attended workshop on conservation options for landowners.

During the next year, the Committee hopes to recruit new members. We will work to promote the connections between our quality of life, the local economy and natural resources. We'll continue our educational walk & lecture series and we'll

work directly with landowners interested in conserving their land .

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Sanders, Chair

REPORT OF THE SANITATION INSPECTOR

In 2006, there were 16 new septic systems installed. There were also 12 upgrades to systems. If you have questions, please call me at 527-4841.

Respectfully submitted,

Stillman G. Brooks
Sanitation Inspector

REPORT OF THE PLUMBING INSPECTOR

During the year 2006 The Plumbing Inspector's office received fifty permit applications. Twenty-four were for plumbing work and twenty-six were for gas piping. There were nine new homes and fifteen remodeling jobs.

A total of \$3,366 was collected for permits and fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Pichette

REPORT OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR

We had only seven houses built this year, but we had one hundred nineteen building permits issued. I took in \$18,091.09 for the year.

Permits issued in 2006:

One Family	7
Two Family	0
Additions	7
Renovations	22
Basement Rooms	4
Above Ground Pool	7
In ground Pool	0
Decks	13
Garages	0
Siding	6
Sheds	14
Windows	10
Reroof	9
Barns	0
Wood Stoves	10
Chimneys	2
Cell addition	2
Gravel pits	2
Occupancy permit	2

Respectfully submitted,

Myron Pietraszkiewicz
Building Inspector

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING

The Council on Aging has completed another successful year in 2006 to provide a variety of services and activities for Westhampton seniors. Town, state and federal funds, together with the combined efforts of many volunteers, made these programs possible.

Liz Anderson served as chairman with Jean Webster as co-chairman and Jean Webster continued as our Highland Valley representative. Ann Tracy and Liz Anderson attended meetings of Hill Town Consortium. Sally Lawton and Gale Wright cared for the flowers, for all to enjoy, at the Council on Aging - Welcome to Westhampton sign at the intersection of Main Road and Loudville Road.

Our monthly luncheons continued, with an average of 45 seniors attending up from last year. Take-out meals were provided for home-bound elders that request them, blood pressure checks were done by Louise Jasionkowski, and birthdays were celebrated each month with a cupcake and candle provided by Pat Warren. Mary Holt is sending out birthday cards to all seniors and Jean Webster sends out get well cards to seniors. Our three-time weekly exercise classes, organized by Gerry Ognibene, have continued.

Entertaining, educational and informative programs following each luncheon were planned by program committee members Mae Pelissier and Liz Anderson.

Special occasions included a talk by Tad Derouin, a pilot who conducts "Angel Flights" that fly sick or needy at no cost to them. This talk was at our Christmas gathering, with Southampton COA as our guests. Our November luncheon included the fourth grade students, their grandparents, and

their teacher, Greg Kerstetter as our guests. The entertainment was Contempaissance a program of flute and guitar music. In July, we held a very enjoyable volunteer recognition and picnic at the home of Dan and Jean Webster. Over 50 seniors and friends were honored for their year of service. Several Westhampton people were speakers or entertained at our meetings including Daniel Lombardo, local author of *Windmills of New England* and Spence who showed us his wood carvings and characterizations of local people. This was the fourth year in which a series of Westhampton talent took part in our programming.

We continued our contract with the Franklin Regional Transit Authority, which allowed us to provide one-on-one transportation free of charge to 9 senior's needing doctors' and dentist appointments, grocery errands, etc. With Charles and Gerry Ognibene as dispatchers, 11 volunteer drivers gave a total of 56 hours, and drove 649 miles. Drivers are paid for gas, but volunteer their time.

The Hilltown Elder Network (HEN), with Olga Hathaway as coordinator is now in its 15th year. In 2006, 8 seniors were provided with 773 hours of light housework and yard work.

In November, Mary Montague, chairman conducted the flu clinic. A total of 92 flu shots to seniors were given by Mary Montague and Mary Powers. Thank you for the hours you put in to make it a success.

Ed Alward continued as editor of our quarterly newsletter, mailed to every Westhampton senior household. Frank Hathaway assisted by collecting and coordinating material, and several other volunteers helped prepare a high quality publication that has been recognized by the state office.

Jackie Brodeur organized a very successful annual garden tour

in July, featuring five Westhampton gardens. The profits helped finance the two bus trips. In June we visited Mark Twain House and Museum and Elizabeth Park gardens. For our bus trip for October we enjoyed lunch at Bill's Restaurant in Greenfield and an afternoon in Shelburne Falls, enjoying the Bridge of Flowers, Glacial Potholes and shopping.

The computers received from Smith College have been placed in senior's homes. This program, coordinated by Charles Ognibene, started in the fall of 2002, and originally intended as a six-month loan to each senior, has been very successful. Due to the generosity of the college in donating more computers, we have not had to take back any we have placed. We are very grateful to Bob Mller for checking out each computer, making any needed repairs and assisting with placement and instruction to members.

As always we are very grateful for the interest and support we receive from the church and from town and school officials. All seniors are welcome at our monthly meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Anderson, chairman
Lillian Cote
Sally Lawton
Charles Ognibene
Jean Webster
Gale Wright

REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Blacksmith Shop Museum committee meets on the third Tuesday from March to October. The museum is open to the public starting Memorial Day through Columbus Day, on Sunday's from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Members of the Historical Commission serve as hosts.

Our committee members are Barbara Fuller; chairman; Liz Anderson, secretary; Daniel Krug, Tom Warren and Bill Tracy. Thanks to Gerry Ognibene who has served as treasurer of the Friends of the Blacksmith Shop Museum for a number of years.

We talked about ways to make the museum more visible to the community in hopes that attendance on Sundays could be increased. We were asked to open the Museum on Sunday, October 15 during the Fall Festival and a surprising number of residents and guests stopped in to see our display. We also had a visit from the Model T Club that had lunch at the Straw Bale Café and then toured the museum in July.

The committee is working with William Pomeroy of Syracuse, NY a descendent of Pliny Pomeroy 1734–1804 a resident of Hooker Road, in Westhampton. He is interested in installing a Pomeroy Anvil Monument on the museum property.

Repairs to the museum were made in the fall. Dan Krug contacted John Sackrey about replacing the front window and the work needed on the sliding door he accomplished this before winter weather arrived. Tom and Diane Warren made the new larger sign for the museum which was made from an antique oval piece of metal given by Barbara Fuller.

Our thanks to those who visit, have given articles and donations to the museum. We appreciate all those who help us to preserve Westhampton's history.

Respectfully submitted

Liz Anderson, secretary

REPORT OF THE CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Westhampton Cultural Council was allotted \$4000 by the State Cultural Council to fund grant applications in FY07. This was a significant increase over last years' grant of \$2500. \$75 was also appropriated by the Town at the Annual Town Meeting. Additional funds were available from a grant where the funds were not fully utilized and from bank interest providing the Council \$4194 to expend in FY07.

One (1) PASS Grant Application and twenty (20) LCC Grant Applications were received in the amount of \$8,169. The Council funded twelve (12) of these requests. The Westhampton Cultural Council has been streamlined by the State (members have completed special training) and all functions are now processed online. There is no longer a wait for approval of applications by the State and grant money is automatically deposited into the Town's treasury for immediate use.

The following applications were approved for FY07:

- 1)Westhampton Elementary School PASS Grant Application to attend the performance of Aesop's Fables at the UMASS Fine Arts Center, \$679
- 2)Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries for Hilltown Sunday Music Series, \$60

- 3) Music in Deerfield, \$250
- 4) Friends of the Westhampton Library Summer Reading Program: Caribbean for Kids, \$175
- 5) Town of Westhampton Concert Music Series, \$600
- 6) Henry Lappen for a Juggling Performance and Workshop, \$400
- 7) Joanne Lucia: Math in Music, \$500
- 8) Rae Griffiths for Snakes Arc Super! \$55
- 9) John Porcino Everything That's Musical, \$375
- 10) Hampshire Regional PTSO for a Hampshire Regional School Musical \$500
- 11) Davis Bates: New England Songs and Stories, \$350
- 12) Ellen Clegg, Found Sounds, Catch the Beat, \$250

The Cultural Council is undertaking an exciting new project in an effort to create an artist's and musician's trail/roadmap of Westhampton. The plan is to eventually have a townwide open house that would feature artists' open studios, musical/theatrical performances and perhaps a festival on the town common. It is the hope that this map would not only highlight the multitude of talented individuals and groups that Westhampton has to offer but to provide networking opportunities within that community. As always, the council is receptive to any ideas, feedback or requests.

The Westhampton Cultural Council is always seeking new members, input and fund raising opportunities. The Council tries to present a well balanced distribution of projects/art/music/theatre in order to benefit all residents of Town. Please contact the Selectboard if you wish to be appointed to the Council, or with any ideas for future grants and rewards. October 15, 2007 will be the last day to submit an application for the FY08 grant cycle.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla E. Stefansson, Chair
Ron Baer
Ellice Gonzalez
Jacqui LaFrance
Robbie Merrington
Gale Wright

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY CARETAKER

The winter of 2005 was a mild winter as New England winters can go. There were several warm spells, which led to several of the old stones tipping over as well as a bumper crop of sand to clean up across the front of the cemetery. The north end of the fence (in front of section 1) received a coat of paint before the Memorial Day activities. There were also as many spring burials as I had total burials all last year which added to the spring work load. The cemetery was infested with grubs which fed on the root structure of the grass all winter with the mild weather. This took its toll and we had Steve Holt come in with a commercial pesticide to kill them. There is no guarantee they will not be back, but we'll be watching for them. We are working at returning the lawn to where it was with fertilizing and reseeding over the winter. There should be a change for the better with ideal growing conditions. The north end of the cemetery was stumped and stumps ground late this summer. Once the wood-pile is cleaned up, grading and seeding will start and hopefully we'll see this project near completion soon. Late in the season I rebuilt the south end of the wood fence across the front of the cemetery. It received one coat of paint and will receive another hopefully before Memorial Day. Other than that we had the normal amount of mowing and trimming.

There were:

- 5 Traditional Burials
- 5 Cremations
- 4 Foundations
- 2 New Plots

Respectfully submitted,

Edward C. Fisher
Cemetery Caretaker

REPORT OF THE WESTHAMPTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Westhampton Memorial Library is overseen by a six-member Board of Trustees, elected by Town residents to serve for three-year terms. The Trustees meet in the library on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. Their duties include setting policy, overseeing finances and the physical plant, supervising and evaluating the library director, and addressing planning and development issues.

The staff and Trustees make the best use possible of the 2,500 square feet of space available in the Library. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate a collection of books and audiovisual materials that meets the needs of the residents, provide adequate and efficient workspace for staff, provide enough patron seating for study and research, or program space for children. Nevertheless, with our dedicated and innovative staff and with the support and suggestions of our patrons, we provide a very high quality of service.

The Trustees are disappointed that supporters of a new library fell just short of mustering the two-thirds affirmative vote at a Special Town Meeting for a debt exclusion to borrow funds for land purchase and construction. However, the Town remains on the waiting list for the State's sixty percent contribution to the costs and a dedicated group of volunteers is actively exploring ways to secure the Town's contribution through private donations.

Resident Jim Armenti, the well know singer-songwriter and member of the Lonesome Brothers and other groups, has recorded an extraordinary CD of original songs about libraries. "The Great Pumpkin Roll" is available for purchase at the Library. All the proceeds from sales of the CD will benefit the Library and will support the building of a new facility, if the fund raising is successful.

The library is ably staffed by a full time, qualified, and certified director, Carolyn Keating, who has overseen the library's operations for the past 16 years with a high degree of professionalism. Hilary Nolan serves as the library's staff assistant and is responsible for the preschool storytimes and other children's programming as well as general library duties.

The library relies on and greatly appreciates the efforts of a dedicated group of volunteers who assist with general duties and special projects, including Saturday staffing. Volunteers donated over 210 hours of their time in 2006.

The library's collection consists of approximately 12,435 volumes, of which about half are children's materials. The growing audiovisual collection now has approximately 1600 holdings. The library subscribes to 21 periodicals but is unable to maintain back issues of most. The staff periodically "thins out" older parts of the collection to make room for new acquisitions.

Over 23,600 items were borrowed in 2006. Many of our 904 registered patrons make use of the high-speed Internet connections on the two computers available for public use. The staff is pleased to assist patrons with research projects and materials requests.

The library is open five days a week, with evening hours twice a week, for a total of 1262 hours in 2006, well in excess of state requirements for a facility our size. We have found that opening the mornings when the Town Hall is open has been a real convenience to many townspeople.

The library sponsored 47 programs for children during the past year. These events were attended by almost 825 people. The Summer Reading Program was again very successful.

The library is a full participant in the C/WMARS system. Part of the cost of participating in this important program is funded by a grant. The catalogues of most public libraries in Western and Central Massachusetts, including ours, are available at <http://www.cwmars.org>. Registered library patrons may search and borrow on line from any C/WMARS library and can arrange to have the borrowed item delivered in a matter of a few days to the Westhampton library. The web site also includes a very comprehensive and user-friendly database of periodicals, professional journals, newspapers and the like, as well as access to a collection of downloadable audio and e-books. By maintaining its certification and its C/WMARS membership, the library ensures that a Westhampton Library card can open the doors to collections far in excess of what we could otherwise possibly afford. Staff is available and eager to assist patrons to become familiar with this extraordinary service.

As always, the Trustees are grateful to the many people who help the library through donations of cash or other gifts.

Although the custody of donations, gifts, and memorial accounts, usually referred to as "Trustees' Funds," is with the Town Treasurer, the Trustees retain control of their use. The reserve is quickly dwindling and if spending and contributions continue at the current rate, the funds could be soon depleted.

The Friends of the Library group is a critical source of financial support and general encouragement to the library. Their energetic and creative fundraising efforts, including the very popular book and plant sale each May, have helped to purchase necessary equipment and to defray some emergency costs. The Trustees very much appreciate the Friends' dedication and commitment to the library.

The library is used as meeting space on a regular basis by a number of groups, including the Library Building Planning Committee, Friends of the Library, the Conservation Commission, Council on Aging garden tour committee, and the Open Space Committee. There were 73 meetings held in the library in 2006.

The Trustee's budget request for the coming fiscal year reflects what we believe to be the minimum needed for us to continue to provide quality services and to maintain our State certification.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert D. Fleischner, Chair
Raymond Giordano, Treasurer
James LaBerge, Secretary
Gail Haggerty
Andrea Belanger
Janus Ternullo

REPORT OF LIBRARY FUNDS

Library funds in the custody of the Town Treasurer at the beginning of fiscal year 2005 were as follows:

Gift accounts:	\$13,938.79
Capital account	\$32,064.70
Grant and Match	\$11,096.48

During fiscal year 2006, gifts in the amount of \$5,930.711 were received. Gifts were received from the Friends of the Library, Karen Hollywood, Sage books, and in memory of Margaret F. Hickey. Expenditures to support the library totaled \$9,031.22, leaving a balance in the gift accounts of \$10,838.28 at the end of the fiscal year.

Interest on the capital account totaled \$902.82, leaving a balance of \$32,967.52 at year-end.

The balance in the Planning Grant received from the state was spent during fiscal 2006. \$1318.97 was spent from the Town's match, with \$11,096.48 remaining.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Parsons
Town Treasurer

REPORT OF THE WESTHAMPTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Westhampton School Committee meets the second Wednesday of the month at the Westhampton Elementary School. The meetings begin at 7:00pm. The committee members are David Antosz, Chairperson; Maureen Dempsey, Vice-chairperson; and Charleen Diggins, Secretary. Some member also represents Westhampton on the following committees: Hampshire Regional School Committee, Charleen Diggins and Administrative Advisory Board, David Antosz.

The Westhampton School Committee acts as the board of directors for the elementary school. The committee's responsibilities include budget, contract negotiations with the teachers association, local education policy decisions and to hire, supervise and evaluate the superintendent. The superintendent is responsible for hiring, supervising and evaluating the principal and the principal carries that responsibility for the teaching staff. The State Board of Education establishes the general spending levels, statewide education policy and curriculum.

Each year we review and re-evaluate the Pre-school Program at the school to assure it meets all the needs of the children in our community. We have been assisting the new superintendent, Dr. Ripa by helping her understand the needs of our school and how we relate with the high school. We have continued to monitor the lunch program and are pleased with the new choices of fresh vegetables 2-3x/week. We have reviewed and updated policies. We have implemented an AED policy at the school. Our biggest challenge continues to be the budget. With the past three years being a challenge, we

have worked hard to maintain the high standards at the school. We review the expenses and budget monthly. We are working hard this year to maintain the services that are available at the school. Our goal is to attempt to maintain the excellent level of education at the school in lieu of the tight state budget, each year is getting more difficult to reach that goal.

We continue to look into areas of the curriculum that may need changes or updates that we feel will benefit the children of Westhampton. This coming year we will be concentrating on a review of the math curriculum. We welcome any suggestions for change or improvements by area residents.

The students have been busy hatching chicks, exploring the arts with different shows provided by the PTO and work to help support a school library affected by Katrina. The after school program has continued to be a great success. The Bonnie's Program provides great opportunities for kids after school and during school breaks, many children benefit from the activities scheduled during the year. After school, students have the opportunity for homework help, music lessons, gymnastic lessons and karate.

The Westhampton Elementary School continues to be utilized by the community and youth groups. We have a very supportive PTO and WeCare committee that help to provide school activities and create a safe school environment. It is this dedication to the school that helps make it a great learning environment. We appreciate all the work that is done by the committees and all the volunteers that help during the school year.

Respectfully submitted
Charleen Diggins, Secretary
David Antosz, Chairperson
Tarin Weiss, Vice-chairperson

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
Westhampton Elementary School
For the year ended June 30, 2006

REVENUE	
Appropriation	\$ 965,418
EXPENDITURES	
Salaries	\$ 813,137
Services	\$ 112,884
Supplies	\$ 39,397
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 965,418
Closed to General Fund	-
VOCATIONAL EXPENSES	
APPROPRIATION	
Transportation	\$ 27,324
Tuition	\$ 188,536
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 189,620
APPROPRIATION OVER EXPENDITURES	\$ 26,240

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

The schools in the Hampshire Regional School District have had another exciting and productive year. Teachers and staff have worked hard to provide quality instructional and extra-curricular programs for our students, while maintaining safe, positive and productive learning environments within our schools. The following report will highlight some of the programs, events, measurements and activities undertaken to help our young people learn and prepare to meet the challenges of our world today.

Annually, administrators identify district goals to provide direction for curricular work and professional development. The 2006-2007 District Goals are:

- Goal #1: Develop and implement district-wide (PreK-12) curriculum (content, instruction and assessment) and a supportive process to continually improve student performance.
- Goal #2: Promote professional development as a means of improving instruction and student achievement, including content, instruction, assessment, mentoring and coaching.
- Goal #3: Support the use of technology, differentiated instruction, diversity and community service as instructional strategies to reach all learners.
- Goal #4: Facilitate ongoing and open communications with parents and our communities.

In the fall of 2006, the district launched Phase I of our new math program. The purpose of the math program is to provide students with similar math learning opportunities so that when they arrive at Hampshire Regional, they have a common set of math skills and understandings. The new math materials help align instruction with state standards for math.

Central Office saw several staff changes. Stuart Singer, our Special Education Administrator left to take a position in business. Laurie Bell Farkas was hired as his replacement. Julie Culhane, our Director of Early Childhood Programs, retired after over thirty years of service to the districts. Through a re-organization process, we have re-assigned the duties of this position and re-instituted the Director of Curriculum position. We hope to have this individual in place for fall 2007. Central office administrative assistant Harriet

Kelley left us to take a similar position in another district. Taffy Bassett-Fox is our new administrative assistant.

WESTHAMPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Westhampton Elementary School has many strong programs. Among the strongest is the reading and language program. Students who have difficulty reading have access to and are well supported by many remediation opportunities. We have two reading and literacy teachers/support people on staff to provide quality support and training in the area of reading.

A new after-school program was added this year. Hosted by Greg Kerstetter, Andrea Wolf and Principal Deane Bates, the program was designed to give fourth grade students extra instruction and practice in math. The math instruction/support was geared around the math that students would find on the MCAS test in the spring. Parents and students found the program to be very helpful and applaud the staff for their efforts.

We hosted the district summer program at Westhampton Elementary, including students from Williamsburg, Chesterfield and Goshen. The purpose of the combined program was to provide a setting with more children at each grade level. We also held the district Pre-school Summer Program at our school and included pre-schoolers from all five towns in the Hampshire districts.

This year for Community Day, members of the Westhampton Community and our students sent math games that were made here at the school to students from Pass Christian. Pass Christian is a town in Louisiana that was hit hard by Hurricane Katrina. Following the hurricane last year, Westhampton Elementary School established a relationship with Pass Christian that continued through this year.

Math-a-Magic was the school-wide theme for this year. Math-a-Magic Day was held in May and featured many family oriented math games and activities. Many thanks to all those who planned this special day, and to those who came to enjoy it with us.

Our school has its own Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), to be used for staff and/or community members in the event of an emergency. Several members of our staff were trained in the proper use of the AED and also in First Responder. The training was provided by Lee Douchkoff, John Shaw and Bob Miller. We also opened up that training to members of HRHS Staff and our after school people.

Our students took part in several exciting field trips this year. Our PTO, through its fundraising, helped to defray the transportation costs of the field trips. Students in kindergarten through third grade went to UMass to see Aesop's Fable. The local cultural council partially sponsored this trip. In February grades 4-6 went to see a Japanese drumming and dance performance called "Taikoza." Thanks to everyone who supported the PTO events as we would not be able to provide these opportunities for our young people without the funding.

Students celebrated Martin Luther King Day by having a "Mix it up." The purpose of this day was to help students recognize the contributions of Dr. King and also to help students learn to deal positively with diversity.

Westhampton Elementary started a student council group this past year. This organization allowed students a voice in the decision-making process here at the school. They kicked -off event for starting the Student Council was a school spirit day.

Each spring, students take the MCAS test. In the spring of

2006, Westhampton students performed at the "Moderate" level in both the English Language Arts and Math portions of the test. The school made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in the Math area, but not in English.

Mrs. Debbie Brooks, Grade 1 teacher, was honored at a special gathering at the Log Cabin in May. At that time, Debbie received the Harold Grinspoon Award for teaching excellence. This award annually recognizes outstanding teachers in the Pioneer Valley and underscores the critical role that teachers play in preparing youth for the future. Congratulations to Debbie!

Westhampton Elementary School saw several staff changes this past year. Jenny Finnie left us in the fall to have a baby, and then returned in November. Ginny Brown filled in for Jenny during her absence. Bridget King was also out on a maternity leave, but extended her leave for the full year. John Bye was hired to teach third grade this year to cover Bridget's leave. He did an outstanding job. Congratulations to both Bridget and Jenny on the birth of their sons. Donna Barcomb was hired to replace Rick Gomez as a classroom aide. Rick moved on to take a teaching position in another district.

Enrollments at the Westhampton Elementary School and Westhampton students at Hampshire Regional High School are as follows:

WESTHAMPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
October 1, 2006 Enrollment

Grade	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
Enrollment	21	15	15	16	20	20	21	21

WESTHAMPTON Students at Hampshire Regional High School

October 1, 2006

GRADE	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
No. of Students	19	24	16	13	19	18

School Committee members for school year 2006-2007:

David Antosz, Chair
Charleen Diggins,
Tarin Weiss, Secretary

HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

A major focus for Hampshire Regional in 2006 was to prepare for and host the accreditation team from NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges), which evaluates and accredits high schools every ten years. The 15-member visiting team arrived in March and spent three days meeting and talking with staff members, reviewing documents and observing classes. The report from the visiting team was shared with the school in the fall. It highlighted many commendations in the areas of instruction; evidence of the school mission in the daily life of the school; the school facility; a safe, positive and supportive school environment; and the wide variety of community resources used to enhance services to students. The committee proposed improvement in the areas of increased teacher involvement in curriculum development; curricular coordination between all academic areas, and increased use of data for ongoing review of curriculum and student achievement of expectations. The high school will continue to use the report to provide direction for its programs and staff development. A follow-up report will be prepared and sent to NEASC in November 2007.

Our middle school program continues to have strong commun-

ication links with our families. We have many strong academic and athletic programs at HRHS. The staff at Hampshire Regional is committed to supporting all our students. Several evening events were held to inform students and parents of the programs and extra curricular offerings we have at our school. The Open House and Course Selection Night are two examples.

In the summer of 2006, twenty-four teachers attended a workshop during which time they explored "Layered Curriculum," a student-centered approach to teaching. Through the strategies presented, teachers learned strategies for differentiating the curriculum to meet the wide range of student interests and abilities. Several teachers used the layered curriculum approach for selected units of instruction during the fall.

Each spring, students at Hampshire Regional participate in the annual MCAS tests. In 2006, student performance in both the English Language Arts area was rated as "High," while student performance in Math was rated as "Moderate." The school made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in all areas, including its sub-groups.

Several years ago the School Council committed to administering surveys to a sample group of our parents, students, and faculty and staff. The goal was to sample these three groups in a six-year period, so that in the course of a typical student's tenure at HRHS parents, students, and faculty and staff would have an opportunity to communicate what works and what needs to be addressed in our school programs. Three years ago the Council developed and administered a phone survey to over one hundred parents. The information from that survey helped us to refine our school improvement plan. Last year the Council developed a student survey. In the spring of 2006, a random sample of over one hundred students

took the survey. This fall the Council compiled the results. They are now sharing that information with our school community. Though most of the survey was very positive with students reporting they felt supported by parents and supported by each other, in regards to weapons and drugs and alcohol, some students reported concern. As a result, the School Council developed an administered a mini survey to all HRHS students in January to take a closer look at this area. At the writing of this report, the data was still being examined by the School Council, who will make the information and report available to the school community once it is complete.

Hampshire was able to expand its Program of Studies to include a pilot internship program. The internships were designed to help students prepare for life after high school, develop a mentorship relationship with adults outside the school setting and motivate students in their studies by providing real-world experiences in the educational program.

Hampshire Regional High School reached out to our sending communities in new ways this year. Mrs. Ann Trytko, Athletic Director, arranged for elementary age town sports groups to be guests at one of the Hampshire Regional basketball games. Each elementary group had their own special evening when were invited to the game, got to shoot basketballs with the team during the half time and received vouchers for free snacks at the snack bar. This outreach effort is designed to bring our young students to the high school so they get to see us and look forward to attending our school once they reach seventh grade. Another outreach effort was accomplished by Robbie Merrington, Drama Coach, who took her drama group on the road and performed "Steel Magnolias" in front of seniors in Williamsburg. Area golden age groups were also invited to attend. Everyone had a wonderful time.

For the third consecutive year, the Hampshire Regional budget passed through town meetings on schedule. Included in the 07 budget was money for two new teachers, one science and one world language. However, when we had to go out for a new bus contract at a higher rate, the additional world language position was not funded.

Hampshire Regional said good-bye to several staff members. Guidance administrative assistant Henrietta Munroe retired at the end of this school year. Hennie served the Hampshire Regional School District in a number of capacities for the past thirty-five years. Maureen Monaghan transferred from the main office to work as the new guidance administrative assistant. Robin Thayer was hired to replace Maureen. Business Technology teacher Carole Landry was scheduled to retire at the end of the school year. Carole passed away during the school year after a valiant battle with cancer. Laura Facteau transferred from world language to teach business and was replaced by Penelope Walker. PE teacher Desi Vega took a one-year leave to pursue other interests in another state. Kara Yereance was hired as his replacement. Laurel Christoferson is the new middle school science teacher. Robbie Merrington retired as the drama coach after fifteen years of working with Hampshire students. Three new custodians were hired to replace those who moved on to other positions. We welcomed Todd Kline, Nate MacBrian and Mike Cummings.

Hampshire Regional would like to recognize the efforts of several staff members. Kelly Carpenter and Rob Norton are recognized for their work as co-chairs to our NEASC Steering Committee. They successfully lead the school through the Self Study and March 2006 visit. Tom Smith, second year Physics teacher, was recognized as a Teacher of excellence by the Grinspoon Foundation. Kim Rose was recognized for her tireless efforts making the Student Council an integral piece of

our school community. Ann Trytko was recognized for improving communication between our athletic programs and the greater school community. Her enthusiasm and cheer inspires everyone around her. Robbie Merrington is recognized for fifteen years of going above and beyond the call advising our middle and high school drama programs. Todd Bryant is recognized for sharing his experiences with The Layered Curriculum. This approach holds great promise in helping us move toward a more student-centered approach to teaching.

October 1, 2006 enrollments at Hampshire Regional High School:

Grade Level	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Enrollment	143	164	132	146	117	132

School Committee members for school year 2006-2007:

Name	Town Represented
Don Abel	Southampton
Michael Beattie	Williamsburg
Diane Bishop, Alternate	Williamsburg
Brad Brousseau, Chiar	Southampton
Trish Colson-Montgomery	Chesterfield
Nancy Curtis	Chesterfield
Lori Devine	Westhampton
Charleen Diggins	Westhampton
Maureen Groden	Southampton
Steven Holt	Westhampton
Patricia Kirouac	Goshen
Sherrie Marti	Williamsburg
Joseph Moynahan	Southampton
David Nardi	Williamsburg
Jennifer Peotter	Chesterfield
David Pesuit	Goshen
Katherine Smith	Williamsburg
Donald Snyder	Southampton
Angela Valinski	Southampton

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Ripa, Superintendent

**HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
FISCAL 2006**

REVENUES

Assessments

Chesterfield	\$ 492,358
Goshen	\$ 334,404
Southampton	\$ 2,581,889
Westhampton	\$ 875,000
Williamsburg	\$ 1,138,955
Total Assessments	\$ 5,422,606

Intergovernmental

Chapter 70	\$ 2,426,572
Transportation	\$ 288,989
Foundation Reserve Grant	\$ 6,000
Circuit Breaker	\$ 109,208
School Choice	\$ 706,400
Charter School	\$ 106,739
Medicaid	\$ 11,412
Excess & Deficiency	\$ 38,948
Total Intergovernmental	\$ 3,694,268

Interest and Other

Interest	\$ 42,075
Refunds & Rebates	\$ 12,875
Total Interest & Other	\$ 54,950

TOTAL REVENUES **\$ 9,171,824**

EXPENDITURES

Administration	\$ 325,938
Instruction	\$ 4,474,273
Special Education	\$ 515,965
Other School Services	\$ 802,072
Operations & Maintenance	\$ 621,997
Retirement Contribution	\$ 222,735
Employee insurance	\$ 1,440,387
Other insurance	\$ 26,523
Debt service	\$ 41,574
School Choice/Charter School Tuitions	\$ 700,360

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$ 9,171,824

Excess of Revenues over Expenditures \$ 0

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia D. Landers
Business Administrator

SALARIES

All figures are annual unless otherwise noted.

ELECTED OFFICIALS		FY07	Proposed 08
Selectboard	Chair	1250	1300
	Others	1050	1100
Board of Assessors	Chair	2550	2600
	Others	2300	2350
Board of Health	Each +\$20/hr .perc/TitleV	350+\$20/hr .perc/TitleV	400 & \$20/hr
Town Clerk		6402	6562
Tax Collector		7239 + fees	7420 + fees
Treasurer		9839	10085
Auditor		200	250
Moderator		200	250
School Committee	Chair	230	280
	Others	200	250
APPOINTED OFFICIALS			
Accounting Officer		9839	10085
Veterans Agent		1204	1254
Administrative Assistant		14040	14391
Assessor's Secretary		1500	1550
Clerk, Bd. Registrars		50	50
Building Inspector		6000	6000
Wiring , Plumbing Inspectors		20/inspection	20/inspection
Sanitation Inspector		25/inspection	25/inspection
Election Workers		6.75/hour	6.75/hour
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT			
Grade1A		19.18	19.68
Grade 1		18.18	18.68
Superintendent		48688	49905
LANDFILL Caretaker		10.00/hour	10.25/hour
LIBRARY Director		36146	37230
Staff Librarian		11.67/hour	12.02/hour
Custodian		8.03/hour	8.52/hour
TOWN HALL Custodian		10.00/hour	10.00/hour
POLICE CHIEF		18500	18500
Officers – Regular		12.00/hour	12.00/hour
Sergeant		14.00/hour	14.00/hour
Court		15.00/hour	15.00/hour
FIRE CHIEF		6000	6000
CEMETERY CARETAKER		4836	4957

PROPOSED BUDGET FISCAL 2008

ACCOUNT	VOTED F2007	PROPOSED F2008
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
Counsel Fees	10000	12000
Moderator	200	250
Selectmen Salary	3350	3500
Selectmen Expense	3600	3600
Administrative Assistant	14040	14391
Auditor Salary	200	250
Accounting Officer Salary	9839	10085
Accounting Office Expense	1700	2050
Assessor Salary	7150	7300
Assessor Expense	12970	8250
Assessor Assistant (Article 13)		21000
Assessor Secretary	1500	21000
Treasurer Salary	9839	1550
Treasurer Expense	3400	10085
Tax Collector Salary	7239	4050
Tax Collector Expense	4235	7420
Town Clerk Salary	6402	8998
Town Clerk Expense	3612	6562
Clerk, Board of Registrars	50	3300
Conservation Commission	265	50
Zoning Board Expense	650	265
Planning Board Expense	200	650
HIGHWAYS		
Highway Administration	4840	27650
Highway Salaries	167000	50000
Highway Materials	55000	61125
Road Machinery	22550	23100
Road Machinery Fuel	22663	27650
Snow Removal	50000	70180
Road Machinery Buildings	19500	19500
Sander	7300	
Loader	86000	
SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES		
Hampshire Regional HS (Article 5)	973513	1036268
HRHS Capital (Article 6)	123494	82325
Vocational Tuition (Article 8)	147065	230485
Vocational Transportation (Art. 9)	27324	40950
Elementary School (Article 7)	1033112	1114917

School Committee Salary	630	780
Library	61000	65691
VETERANS		
Veterans Expense	100	300
Veterans Agent Salary	1394	1254
Memorial Day	100	100
Cultural Council	75	75
CEMETERIES		
Cemetery Salary	4836	4957
PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROP		
Police Department	42137	43603
Police Vehicle (Article 12)	0	36000
Fire Chief	6000	6000
Fire Department	13400	15750
Safety Complex	10000	17420
Safety Complex Doors	11000	
Emergency Medical Services	6000	7480
Inspector Salary	13200	15300
Building Inspector Expense	500	500
Tree Warden Expense	2000	2000
Dog Officer	250	250
Animal Inspector	550	600
HEALTH & SANITATION		
Hilltown Resource Mgt. Coop. (Art. 11)	4979	4979
Board of Health Salary	3400	3550
Board of Health Expense	69575	69315
DEBT & INTEREST		
Int. Short Term Debt	2813	2070
Short Term Debt	20000	26000
Long Term Debt	145000	155000
Interest Long Term Debt	70050	65250
UNCLASSIFIED		
Insurance & Bonds	55000	59000
Town Offices	10200	11770
Council on Aging	1100	1100
Historical	200	200
County Retirement	88854	95978
Council of Governments	2028	2028
Unemployment (Article 10)	12300	12800
Group Insurance	236000	275000
Medicare	17000	18500
Reserve Fund	<u>5000.</u>	<u>5000.</u>
TOTAL	3755647	4033766

ARTICLES ON THE WARRANT

MAY 12, 2007

ARTICLE 1: To hear and act on all reports presented at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to leave the care of the highways in charge of the Selectmen.

ARTICLE 3: To vote in compliance with Section 108, Chapter 41 G.L. which requires that salaries of elected officials be fixed by vote of the Town.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, such sum of money as may be necessary to defray Town charges in the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to meet Westhampton's share of Hampshire Regional School District's assessment for Fiscal 2008, or any lesser sum as may be certified by the District, provided that any such certification shall be made prior to the establishment of the tax rate, and to meet this appropriation, a sum of money be raised by taxation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to meet Westhampton's share of Hampshire Regional School District's capital assessment for Fiscal 2008, or any lesser sum as may be certified by the District, provided that any such certification shall be made prior to the establishment of the tax rate, and to meet this appropriation, a sum of money be raised by taxation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for the Elementary School, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Vocational school tuition, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Vocational school transportation, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide a sum of money to hold in anticipation of unemployment benefits for Town employees in accordance with Chapter 151A of the General Laws of Massachusetts.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Westhampton Town's share of expenses of continued participation in the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 12 : To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of money to purchase a vehicle for the Police Department, and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, or by borrowing, or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to create a new position of Assistant to the Board of Assessors, and further vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum of

money for that purpose, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from available funds, due to the town as Chapter 90 Highway funds, from the Transportation Bond Issue, voted in the Acts of 2006, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from Free Cash to reduce the tax rate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 16 : To see if the Town will vote to authorize a revolving fund for the Fire Department, under MGL Chapter 44, Sec 53 E1/2, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to accept Chapter 39, Section 23D of the Massachusetts General Laws, regarding the attendance of members of municipal boards at hearings, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to amend the General bylaw by adding Article 8 Capital Improvement Planning Committee, as follows, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article 8 Capital Improvement Planning Committee

Section 1 Committee

8-1-1 The Westhampton Selectboard shall establish and appoint a committee to be known as the Capital Improvement Planning Committee, composed of five members who shall be residents of the Town of Westhampton and appointed annually as follows: The Selectboard shall appoint three members at

large. The Finance Committee and Selectboard shall each select one of their members for appointment by the Selectboard. Any vacancy shall be appointed by the Selectboard for the remainder of the term. The Committee shall choose its own officers

Section 2. Duties

8-2-1 The Committee shall develop a list of Town assets, and study proposed capital projects and improvements involving major non-recurring tangible assets and projects which:

- 1) have a useful life of at least five years; and
- 2) cost over \$10,000.

8-2-2 All department heads, boards and commissioners, including the Selectboard, shall, by December 1st of each year, give to the Committee, on forms prepared by it, information concerning all anticipated projects requiring Town Meeting action during the ensuing six years. The Committee shall consider the relative need, impact, timing, cost, completeness of the plan, community support, availability of outside funding, and other factors deemed appropriate to the individual expenditures and the effect each will have on the financial position of the Town.

Section 3. Annual Report

8-3-1 The Committee shall by February 1st prepare an annual report recommending a Capital Improvement Budget for the next fiscal year, and a Capital Improvement Program including recommended capital improvements for the following five fiscal years. Said report shall include its recommendations for the scheduling and financing of capital outlays. The report shall be submitted to the Selectboard and Finance Committee for consideration and agreement.

Section 4. Capital Improvement Program

8-4-1 The Selectboard shall submit the approved Capital Budget/Program to the Annual Town Meeting for adoption by the town. After adoption, the Capital Program shall permit the expenditure on projects included therein of sums from departmental budgets for surveys, architectural or engineering advice, options or appraisals; but no such expenditure shall be incurred on projects which have not been so approved by the town through the appropriation of sums in the current year or in prior years, or for preliminary planning for projects to be undertaken more than five years in the future.

Section 5. Publication

8-5-1 The Committee's report and the Selectboard's recommended Capital Budget shall be published and made available at Annual Town Meeting. The Committee shall file its original report with the Town Clerk.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the town will support renovations to the Town Hall restrooms to make them handicap accessible, subject to appropriation.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the town will support handicap access improvements to the Westhampton Memorial Library, subject to appropriation.

NOTE: This is a preliminary list of the articles for the Annual Town Meeting; it is subject to change and/or additions. The final warrant will be posted at least seven days before the Annual Meeting, May 12th.

PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT WITH YOU TO THE ANNUAL MEETING.

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